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Ein Fall von Seelenblindheit. Dr. LISSAUER. 48. Sitzung des Vereins ostdeutscher Irrenärzte, Nov. 1888. Allg. Zeitschr. f. Psychiatrie, Bd. XLVI, H. 1.

This case is very like those of Freund. The patient was an old man, with no previous trouble beyond attacks of dizziness and senile weakness of memory. On examination he showed no aphasia nor symptoms of paralysis; right hemianopsia; sight in the center of the field preserved, and amounting to $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ normal; inability to recognize the significance of objects shown or to name them, except with aid of other senses, *e. g.*, touch or hearing; alexia without agraphia; ability to draw outlines of simple objects, but without recognition. The author distinguishes two kinds of psychic blindness, an apperceptive and an associative, caused respectively by injury to the visual centers or to their associative fibers—in this case, since the patient recognized forms, probably the latter.

Ueber Aphasia. LEOPOLD CARO. Inaug. Dis. Arch. f. klin. Med. Bd. XLIII, 1888, Abstract by Sperling in the Neurol. Centralbl. No. 4, 1889.

As an appendix to the body of his dissertation (in which he presents the doctrine of aphasia and his views on the origin of language), the author reports a carefully studied case, in which, as in one of Grashey's, the aphasia rested on a general decline of mental power—a case of amnesic aphasia. The mental processes of the patient were surprisingly slow; six or seven seconds were required for the recollection of his own name, as much as twenty for seeing and naming objects. He himself said: "When I look at the picture, then I don't know—know what it is; I have to—have to look at it closely first, then I have to—have to think over what it is; then what—what it is called." He took four seconds longer to read capital letters than small, though, as it would seem, the reading of letters in series was not delayed. Some letters, especially capitals, could not be written at dictation and generally were not recognized; the figures above 3 also failed of recognition. What the patient did read he did not at once understand. Some questions elicited no answer, from lack of comprehension, and frequent repetition was required. All sense perceptions were soon forgotten, and smell and touch were dull. As in Grashey's case, the patient was unable to read even short words when obliged to take them letter by letter, because the first was forgotten before the last was recognized; for example, "Ochs" could not be read when written with the letters a good deal separated. He could not tell the number of three pencils when they were some distance apart, nor count the sides of a polygon.

L'Alcoolisme, étude médico-sociale. Dr. E. MONIN. Ouvrage couronné par la Société française de Tempérance et précédé d'une Préface par le Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz. pp. 308. Paris, Octave Doin, 1889.

The aim of this book is to popularize scientific information on the subject with which it deals, and as a popular book it is readable and valuable. The headings of its ten chapters give its scope: Chronic and Acute Intoxication [ivrognerie, ivresse]; The Diseases of Drinkers; The Extent of Alcoholism, its Pandemic Expansion; Alcohol and the Nervous System; Responsibility of Alcoholics; Action

of Different Beverages, Distilled Liquors; Absinth; Common Fermented Beverages; Dipsomania; Preventive and Curative Remedies. Under each of these heads is gathered interesting information. Dr. Monin has little liking for what he regards as impracticable total abstinence. What he hopes to see, and what the French Society of Temperance endeavors to secure, is a hygienic use of pure beverages of the less alcoholic kinds. To this end the author would look to government for help in such preventive measures as the betterment of conditions which force the lower classes to drunkenness, the use of the taxing power in favor of the less harmful liquors, and especially the prevention of poisonous adulterations. The state, however, can do comparatively little; measures of social reform, temperance teaching in the schools, temperance societies, coffee-houses, etc., have an important place. For the cure of confirmed drinkers he favors inebriate asylums as in operation in this country. In the last section of this chapter he points out the general lines of medico-pharmaceutical treatment, and gives prescriptions that have been found advantageous.

Icrognerie, ses causes et son traitement. Dr. P. J. KOVALEVSKY. Translation into French by Woldemar de Holstein, M. D. Kharkoff, M. F. Sylberberg, 1889, pp. 113.

This little book, by the professor of nervous and mental diseases at the University of Kharkoff, is limited more strictly than the last to the statement of present views of inebriety as a disease. The subject is treated under the heads of Symptoms of Inebriety, Prodromal Period, Chronic Alcoholism, Dipsomania, Predisposing Causes of Inebriety (heredity, sex, age, religion, nationality, climate, disease, etc.), Provocative Causes (psychic and physical traumatism, disease, profession, climate, etc.), and Treatment. The author presents his views with admirable clearness, and seems to have succeeded in being popular without sacrifice of quality or form. He recognizes the necessity of a strong foundation in educated public opinion in dealing with the question practically, and, unlike Dr. Monin, would not be opposed to suppressing the sale of alcohol entirely except for medicine and the arts. Even as medicine he would have it used with caution. This difference comes apparently from his much greater familiarity with American and English studies of the subject. Inebriety in the individual is to be treated as a disease; the author has, however, little faith in the various specifics that have been recommended. The hereditarily disposed should have preventive treatment, moral and medical. Those in whom the disease is established should have the discipline of special hospitals (not jails nor insane asylums), where the necessary physical and moral rebuilding of the man can be carried out. As single items among others, manual training and work in the open air are recommended.

Experimentelle Untersuchungen zur Lehre vom chronischen Alcoholismus. F. STRASSMANN. Eulenberg's Vierteljahrss. f. gerichtl. Medicin u. s. w. Abstract by Joseph in Centralblatt f. Physiol. No. 24, 1889.

Twelve dogs were treated by the author to determine the difference in the effects of the chronic alcoholism produced by pure alcohol and by that adulterated with higher members of the series. Practically the only constant results due solely to the alcoholization were